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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) An improved blade for a shovel having an elongated handle, the blade comprising:

a scoop portion having a width, a length, and a leading edge furthest away from the handle;
a plurality of concave scallops on the leading edge, [[; and]] each scallop defining a segment of a single circle; and

wherein the segments intersect at distinct forward points in a straight line generally perpendicular to the handle.

2. (Original) The improved shovel of claim 1, wherein:

the width of the scoop portion ranges between 6 and 24 inches; and
the number of scallops ranges between 3 and 12.

3. (Previously Presented) The improved shovel of claim 1, wherein:

the points are spaced apart by a distance 'd'; and
the radius of each scallop, 'r,' is greater than $d/2$.

4. (Previously Presented) The improved shovel of claim 1, wherein:

the points are spaced apart by a distance 'd'; and
the radius of each scallop, 'r,' is substantially equal to 'd'.

5. (Previously Presented) The improved shovel of claim 1, wherein:

the spaced are apart by a distance 'd'; and
the radius of each scallop, 'r,' is greater than 'd'.

6. (Original) The improved shovel of claim 1, wherein the scallops are substantially identical.

7. (Original) The improved shovel of claim 1, wherein the scoop portion is configured for snow

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shoveling.

8. (Original) The improved shovel of claim 1, wherein the scoop portion includes stiffening ribs.

9. (Original) The improved shovel of claim 1, wherein the scoop portion is configured for gardening.

10. (Original) The improved shovel of claim 1, wherein the scoop portion is configured for ice scraping.

11. (Original) The improved shovel of claim 1, wherein the leading edge is attached to the scoop portion.

12. (Original) The improved shovel of claim 1, wherein the leading edge and scoop portion are constructed from dissimilar materials.